

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending herein, with claim 1 being an independent claim. Claims 14-21 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-12 have been rejected. Claim 13 has been objected to.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 5, 6, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,698,601 to Sierk, et al. Sierk was described as having a turret frame 2, a turret plate 16, 17, a pair of first female connectors 23, 25, 26, 27, and a pair of second male connectors 18.

The Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to specify that it is the first and the second connectors that are releaseably mating with each other such that the turret plate may be removed from the turret shaft. The connectors cited in Sierk do not remove the plates 16, 17 from the shaft 18. Rather, the plates are attached via the hub members 19, 20 with the pins 21, 22. The arrangement claimed herein thus simplifies the attachment and the removal of the turret plate as compared to the complex system of Sierk. The Applicant thus submits that Claim 1, and the dependent claims thereon, are patentable over the cited reference.

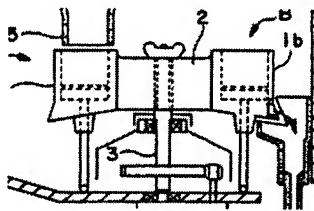
The Applicant further traverses the rejection of dependent claims 5 and 6 for the reasons described above and for the reasons that Sierk does not show a *pair* of first connectors or a *pair* of second connectors. Rather, the connectors at the top are different structures than the connectors at the bottom. There are no *pairs* of any element as is

called for herein. The Applicant likewise further traverses the rejection of dependent claims 11 and 12 concerning a pair of protrusions and apertures. Sierk appears to be silent on the use of such.

35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 3, 4, and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sierk in view of Hamilton, et al. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections for the reasons described above. The Applicant further traverses the rejection on the grounds that Hamilton merely shows a shaft coupling. There is no disclosure whatsoever of connecting a turret shaft with a turret plate as is called for herein.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,193,438 to Courtois in view of Sierk. Courtois was described as showing a rotatable turret plate 2 and a turret shaft 3 including a wing nut connector.



The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. As described above with respect to claim 1, Sierk does not show a turret shaft with a pair of first connectors or a turret plate with a pair of second connectors. Rather, Sierk merely shows a means for connecting the shafts 18, 26 via the collar 27. Likewise, Courtois shows no connection means whatsoever. Rather, the turret plate 2 simply rotates about the shaft 3. The

Applicant thus respectfully submits that independent claim 1, and the dependent claims thereon, are patentable over the cited references.

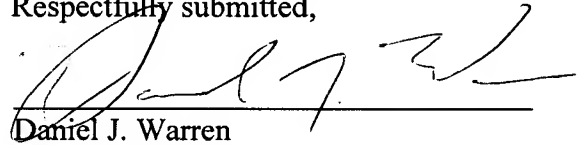
The Applicant further traverses the rejection of dependent claims 11 and 12 for the reasons described above and because neither reference appears to show a pair of protrusions or a pair of apertures. The Applicant requests clarification if the rejection is repeated.

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courtois in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,876,928 to Adams, et al. Adams was described as showing a removable turret having a pair of male connectors mating with a pair of female connectors mounted to the turret. Although the office action is silent on the elements that make up the connectors, the Applicant assumes that the Office Action refers to either the pivot post 56 and the rivet 58 or the shaft 90 and the cam shaft 96. In either case, neither connection relates to connecting the turret shaft and the turret plate as is called for in the claims. The Applicant thus asserts that claim 1, and the dependent claims thereon, are patentable over the cited references. The Applicant requests clarification if the rejection is repeated.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant believes it has responded to each matter raised in the Office Action. Allowance of all claims is respectfully solicited. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at 404-853-8028.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel J. Warren', is written over a horizontal line.

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